

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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Wildfires Cause CDF to Gear Up In Southern California

Sacramento- In response to warm, dry, windy “Red Flag Warning” conditions and wildfire activity in Southern California, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) is increasing staffing and is preparing for possible further increases.

“We are in close touch with the National Weather Service,” said Rich Just, CDF Assistant Deputy Director for Fire Protection. “Based on their predictions, we’re staffing two airtankers and a command aircraft immediately as well as activating several additional fire engines.”

Two S-2T airtankers and one OV-10 air attack plane are available to fight fire immediately. They will be dispatched out of the Ramona Air Base in San Diego County. CDF is in the process of activating several additional Southern California fire engines and a Super Huey helicopter based in Hemet, Riverside County. Additionally, two strike teams of CDF fire engines are in transit this afternoon from northern to Southern California.

“Although CDF entered winter weather staffing patterns last month, we are designed to expand and contract as needed. That is what we are doing right now,” added Chief Just. “We are ready when and where we are needed.”

Recent dry, windy conditions have sparked several grass fires in the southern part of the state. Santa Ana wind conditions are expected to continue from Ventura to San Diego County through Tuesday afternoon.

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